

Isaiah 7:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.

Analysis

The breadth of sign options—'ask it either in the depth, or in the height above'—emphasizes unlimited divine power and generosity. God essentially offers a blank check: any sign from Sheol's depths to heaven's heights. This comprehensive offer demonstrates that no confirmation is too difficult for omnipotent God. The invitation shows divine eagerness to strengthen faith, anticipating Jesus' teaching about the Father's willingness to give good gifts (Matthew 7:11).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings commonly sought divine signs through divination. God offers Ahaz a legitimate sign from the true God, contrasting with pagan practices.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's unlimited offer reveal His eagerness to strengthen our faith?
2. What 'signs' has God already provided that we fail to recognize or appreciate?

Interlinear Text

שָׂא לָהּ	לָךְ	אֶת	מֶעַם	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ
Ask	H0	thee a sign	H5973	of the LORD	thy God
H7592		H226		H3068	H430
הַעֲמִי קִ	שָׂא לָהּ	אֶת	הַגִּבֹּהַ	לְמַעַלָּהּ:	
it either in the depth	Ask	H176	or in the height	above	
H6009	H7592		H1361	H4605	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 37:30 (Parallel theme): And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such as groweth of itself; and the second year that which springeth of the same: and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof.

Isaiah 38:22 (References Lord): Hezekiah also had said, What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the LORD?

2 Kings 19:29 (Parallel theme): And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such things as grow of themselves, and in the second year that which springeth of the same; and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruits thereof.

Jeremiah 19:1 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, Go and get a potter's earthen bottle, and take of the ancients of the people, and of the ancients of the priests;

Jeremiah 19:10 (Parallel theme): Then shalt thou break the bottle in the sight of the men that go with thee,

